

PROCEEDINGS OF THE NEW YORK ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY

MEETING OF APRIL 5, 1927

A regular meeting of the New York Entomological Society was held at 8 P. M., on April 5, 1927, in the American Museum of Natural History; President Henry Bird in the chair, with twenty-one members and twelve visitors present.

The treasurer reported receipt of a letter from Farmers' Loan and Trust Co., stating the investment of the Woodruff bequest as follows:

\$5,000 participating interest in a \$14,000 Bond and Mortgage on Recreation Rooms and Settlement 186-188 Chrystie St.

\$5,000 participating interest in a \$145,000 Bond and Mortgage on Progress Club 1-9 West 88th St., N. W. Corner Central Park West.

The rate of interest on the first is 5 per cent. payable May and November 25, on the second 5½ per cent. payable April and October 21.

The program committee reported Dr. Lutz and Mr. Lemmer as the speakers at next meeting.

Dr. Howard's letter accepting his election as an honorary member was read.

Mr. Davis exhibited Dr. Chittenden's paper on Nut Weevils and Mr. Weiss' paper on Insects captured at Lookout Stations in N. J.

Dr. Garman read a paper on "Organization and Work of the Connecticut Station in Entomology" illustrated by about 100 lantern slides. He pointed out the age of the station, established in 1895 and gave interesting details of its personnel and accomplishments. A summary of the varying periods of recurrence of maximum infestations by various pests excited great interest and discussion by Dr. Lutz, Mr. Bird and Mr. Davis, bringing a statement that twelve years often elapsed between the maxima.

Mr. Leng spoke of "Collecting Beetles in Porto Rico," illustrated by a map, postal cards, and the Carabidæ as arranged by Mr. Mutchler and himself from the previous collections made at the American Museum of Natural History and the experiment stations in Porto Rico.

Mr. Wm. T. Davis exhibited a male of the cicada *Okanagama opacipennis* Davis, and stated that but two specimens had thus far been recorded. The female type was collected at Buckman Springs, San Diego Co., California in 1925 by Prof. W. S. Wright, who also collected the second specimen at the same locality, June 26, 1926. Now that the male is known, it is found to be a distinct species from *Okanagama arctostaphylae* Van D., which got its name from the fact, that like *opacipennis*, it is found on the manzanita bush, the reddish bark of which they both closely resemble in color. He also exhibited the second known specimen of *Clidophleps vagans* Davis. It had

been sent from the British Museum for determination, and came from Yosemite, California, July 17, 1922, C. B. Pearson, collector.

Mr. Davis further stated that a small brood of 17-year Cicadas is expected this year in the Half-Way Hollow Hills north of Wyandanch, Long Island, where the insect occurred as a swarm in 1910.

Mr. Ragot exhibited and spoke of recent interesting finds including an infant shrew infested by fifty fleas; a *Mallodon dasystemus* found in L. I. City August 30 last at light, a deformed *Cecropia* moth, a series of *Anasa tristis* found March 19 under bark of fallen willow of which 70 per cent. were dead and many eaten hollow.

He spoke of the abundance of *Carabus nemoralis* and of one attacking an eight inch garter snake also of *Silpha inaequalis* active March 3 despite the cold being sufficient to freeze the dead rat in which he found them to the ground.

MEETING OF APRIL 19, 1927

A regular meeting of the New York Entomological Society was held at 8:00 P. M., on April 19, 1927, in the American Museum of Natural History; President Henry Bird in the chair with twenty-three members and eight visitors present.

In the event of Dr. K. Jordan being unable to attend the meeting of May 3 the Secretary was authorized to postpone the meeting by postal card notices, the by-laws being suspended for the purpose.

Dr. Lutz spoke of the American Objections to Dr. Poche's propositions in Zoological Nomenclature; those present individually signed a vote against them.

The program committee announced Messrs. Davis and Sherman as speakers at the next meeting.

Mr. Lionel Lacey, 107 Sixth Ave., Pelham, N. Y.

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were elected members of the Society.

Dr. Lutz spoke on "Some Problems in Insect Physiology." He commended the report of the Committee on Policy of the American Association of Economic Entomologists as to the need of an increased amount of fundamental research concerning the physiology of insects. He also called attention to the advantages offered by insects as material for the study of problems in pure physiology, and cited as examples of such work a number of papers on very diverse subjects. An account of a number of experiments conducted by himself closed his interesting discourse which was discussed by Dr. Campbell and Messrs. Hartzell, Bridwell, and Ragot.

Mr. Lemmer exhibited a splendidly prepared box of moths collected at Lakehurst, N. J., which excited the admiration of all the members. He described the room in which many of his captures at light were made, so constructed that he could reach the ceiling and moths could come in all night. Before sunrise he caught those outside the windows before birds

got them. Among the species specially discussed was *Catocala herodias* var. *gerhardi* especially in reference to its food plant, scrub oak.

Mr. Davis recalled the article in our JOURNAL by Charles Sleight, vol. XVII, 1906, p. 166, giving *Quercus nana* as the particular scrub oak on which the larva was found.

Mr. Ragot exhibited the puparium of a Cuterebra fly found April 9 near Valley Forge, Staten Island, and spoke of its larva living under the skin of rabbits. He also exhibited two small beetles with organisms attached to the anal extremity by slender filaments.

Mr. Angell spoke of the study of chemistry at Princeton.

MEETING OF MAY 3, 1927

A regular meeting of the New York Entomological Society was held at 8 P. M., on May 3, 1927, in the American Museum of Natural History; President Henry Bird in the chair with eighteen members and eight visitors present.

The Program Committee reported Mr. Nicolay as speaker on May 17.

Mr. George B. Gross, 30 Old Slip, was elected a member.

Communications from absent members, Howard Notman and R. J. Hunter were read by Mr. Davis, to whom Mr. Notman had sent a postal card from each place thus far visited on his 11,000 mile automobile journey.

Mr. Mutchler spoke of Japanese Beetle Quarantine Station recently established at 2000 Bronx St., West Farms.

Mr. Davis read a paper on "Pink Katydid" to be published in full. In answer to questions he said that the female usually laid 30 to 40 eggs and described the various methods of oviposition and the ease with which the true katydids may be caught at night by touching them, when discovered by their song and a flash light, with a long bamboo pole so that they drop to the ground.

Mr. Sherman spoke on "Entomological Books" exhibiting a number of rare works, commenting especially on the value of the first book on each subject. Some astonishing advances in value were instanced and many more instances of a lack of gain in value. A comparison with the result of keeping the original money at interest was given to show that even the highest prices involved a loss rather than a gain.

Messrs. Watson, Davis and Ragot gave some dates of first appearance observed viz: Monarch butterfly April 27, Asterias butterfly May 1, Turnus butterfly April 20, *Calasoma calidum* May 2, to which may be added *Amara* sp. and *Carabus nemoralis* April 11 and 12, *Amara* again April 20, those being especially warm days in April.

MEETING OF MAY 17, 1927

A regular meeting of the New York Entomological Society was held at 8 P. M., on May 17, 1927, in the American Museum of Natural History with fourteen members and seven visitors present; President Henry Bird in the chair.

Mr. James Irving Kendall, Sterlington, N. Y., was elected a member of the Society.

On motion by Mr. Sherman the secretary was instructed to send the Society's congratulations to the Jugatae of Cornell University.

Mr. Davis read postal cards from Mr. Notman who on May 14 had reached Pensacola.

The president exhibited the recently issued "Biochemistry of American Pitcher Plants," published in Trans. Wagner Free Inst. of Science of Philadelphia XI, April, 1927, by Hepburn, Jones, and St. John, praising the work therein of Frank Morton Jones.

Mr. Nicolay spoke of "Beetling at Greenville, S. C.," illustrating his remarks by photographs and specimens. He had visited Ware Shoals near Greenville early in April and found among other species *Ferestria acuta*, *Eumolops collossus*, and *Platymus limbatus*. He also spoke of collecting at Greenwood Lake on May 8 and at Orangeburg May 15; the first yielding Buprestidæ on pines, the second *Elaphrus*.

The president asked for spring collecting notes. Mr. Angell described *Cremastocheilus* under bark and flying in South Carolina; Mr. Bird told of the gill-bearing larva of *Nymphula*, a pyralid moth found in the overwintering seeds of Bladderwort (*Utricularia purpurea*) on Long Island and of *Paria canella vittata*, a beetle identified by Mr. Notman found hibernating in Spanish Moss. Mr. Davis exhibited a new dragon fly *Neurocordulia virginiana*, description of which will shortly be published.

Mr. Chapin told of finding an albino *Colias* and other interesting captures.

Mr. Huntingdon spoke of the butterflies found on the second ridge east of Glen Station, Greenwood Lake region, reached from Hewitt, N. J., and at Coram, Long Island, where *Thanaos brizo* was abundant on May 8.

Mr. Mutchler spoke of *Lyctus planicollis* bred from Red Oak and of Clerids which occurred with it.

Mr. Ragot had a number of living *Passalus cornutus* found May 14 on Staten Island.

Mr. Sherman exhibited the exceedingly rare "New Species of Curculionites," published in 1831 at New Harmony, Ind., by Thomas Say.

Mr. Leng described some spring swarming of beetles seen in former years, especially *Cetonia inda*, *Melanactes piceus* and *Cremastocheilus harrisi*.

Mr. Gross told of his receipts of *Morpho butterflies* from French Guiana.

Mr. Schiffer, present as a visitor, spoke of *Dermestes elongatus* on Long Island and Mr. Mutchler told how one had flown into his window at the Museum just when needed for the collection. Mr. Schiffer also reported finding a dead specimen of *Anthophilax malachiticus* near a stump, on Mt. Washington in the Berkshire Mts., Mass.

MEETING OF OCTOBER 4, 1927

A regular meeting of the New York Entomological Society was held at 8 P. M., on October 4, 1927, in the American Museum of Natural History;

President Henry Bird in the chair with eighteen members and seven visitors present.

A letter from Dr. Johannsen relating to the International Congress of Entomology to be held in Ithaca in August, 1928, was referred to the Executive Committee.

Mr. Davis exhibited two recent publications, viz: "Guide to Insects of Connecticut, part V, Odonata" by Philip Garman; and "Histological Technique, a guide for use in a Laboratory course in Histology," by B. F. Kingsbury and O. A. Johannsen

Dr. W. E. Britton, present as a visitor, spoke of the Japanese Beetle in Connecticut, the occurrence of eighteen specimens in 1926 at Stamford, and of eight distinct infestations in 1927 in Bridgeport, one of which on Washington Avenue involved eighty-four specimens. He also spoke of a solitary hellgramite in a railroad station which, through exaggerated reports, appeared in local and other newspapers as having a thirty-six inches wing spread and as being followed by a whole battery the next day.

Dr. Stanley B. Fracker also present as a visitor, spoke of the Mexican fruit fly's serious depredations in the Lower Rio Grande Valley where the cultivation of Grape Fruit on a large scale is an important industry. He said that as the fly has four broods in a year it may be possible, by ceasing the cultivation of other hosts, to deprive the fly of food between March and September.

Prof. A. E. Stone, of Kingston, R. I., described the difficulty of dealing with the corn borer in Rhode Island from the large number of small areas under cultivation.

Mr. Ned J. Burns exhibited a *Mantis religiosa* which he had found at Sands Point, Long Island, together with other specimens loaned by Mr. Davis of this and two other species of Mantis. The species *religiosa* has been found, introduced, at Rochester and Ithaca and the specimen found by Mr. Burns is a great extension of its range.

Mr. Davis exhibited, through the courtesy of Col. Wirt Robinson, *Dynastes tityus* from Wingina, Virginia. The exhibit included the coffee-bean like droppings, by which Col. Robinson detects the presence of the beetle; the larvae, pupae, pupal case, and adults of both sexes. A female, named "Wingina Mary" by Mr. Davis, had been kept alive in the Staten Island Museum until September 23, having been collected August 22. During most of the time she ate banana, often devouring a considerable quantity. The interesting fact was that during a part of the time she was the color of the so called greasy specimens in collections (the ones that are soaked in benzine, tetrachloride of carbon or some other agency to bring back the spots). A few days before the beetle died she resumed the green color and spotted condition.

Mr. Davis exhibited also post cards received during the past summer from Messrs. Notman, Engelhardt, Bell, Hunter, and Dr. Bequaert, members who had traveled far from home. In answer to a question of Dr. Felt's he spoke also of the injury to lilac at Yaphank.

Mr. Sherman described the forests and sphagnum bogs on Monhegan Island, twelve miles from Boothbay Harbor, Maine, as offering splendid opportunities for collecting.

Mr. Barber also exhibited enthusiasm for northern collecting having obtained 1400 specimens in four weeks. Sifting an area three feet wide and twelve feet long at Indian Lake in the Adirondacks produced interesting results.

Mr. Angell reported taking *Sphaeroderus lecontei* on Sept. 20 at Cook's Falls, N. Y., and other collecting at Oradell, Greenwood Lake, and on Staten Island.

Mr. Hall had again visited the mountains of Wyoming and showed pictures of their August snowdrifts. Amid them by spending several days above the tree line he had collected butterflies which will be exhibited later.

Mr. Chapin reported on a vacation spent near Litchfield, Conn., which brought death to many wasps and grasshoppers he had added to his collection.

Mr. Huntington's most memorable trip had been to the famous "Butterfly Station" at Karner, New York, where in an hour and a half thirty-six *Lycaena scudderi* met his net.

Mr. Watson considered the season poor for butterfly collecting but remarkable for the abundance of *Colias eurytheme* and *Junonia coenia*.

Mr. Shoemaker had sought *Basilarchia astyanax albofasciata* in the Pocono Mts. in July with success; moonlight nights had reduced the results of sugaring. At Washington in September he also had found *Colias eurytheme* unusually common there and four or five in Bronx Park. By the use of 60 bait bottles at Washington he added to his stock of *Cychnrus stenostomus* and *ridingsii* but had not had the luck to capture the species named for him, *shoemakeri*. He described the drainage operations which will partly obliterate the collecting grounds on the Eastern Shore where he has heretofore found *Ardistomis obliquus* and *Casnonia ludoviciana*.

MEETING OF OCTOBER 18, 1927

A regular meeting of the New York Entomological Society was held at 8 P. M., on October 18, 1927, in the American Museum of Natural History; Mr. Wm. T. Davis in the chair with seventeen members and ten visitors present.

Mr. Davis called attention to an article by Mr. Weiss in "The American Collector" on the "First Book on Insects printed in America and its Author."

Dr. Lutz delivered an address on "Wind and the Direction of Insect Flight" which will be printed in full. It was freely discussed by Messrs. Davis, Lemmer, Hartzell, Angell, Barber and Weiss.

Mr. Barber read a paper on "A Lygaeid Bug that Mimics an Ant" which will also be printed in full. The terms "myrmecoidy" for ant

resemblance, and "ethology" for individual behavior were used, following authors quoted by Mr. Barber.

Mr. Bell spoke briefly of his two weeks collecting in Colorado and of his trip to Washington, D. C.

Messrs. Mutehler, Schwartz, and Lemmer reported some incidents of the past summer.

Mr. Davis exhibited, for Oscar Fulda, a *Colias eurytheme* caught near Richmond, Staten Island, on September 4, 1927.

Mr. Angell quoted John Woodgate as reporting increasing rarity of *Cicindela santaclarae*.

Mr. Albert Hartzell reported that he had spent his vacation in Pennsylvania with the Bureau of Plant Industry and incidentally had collected a few leafhoppers, for the most part species of *Empoasca*.

Mr. Weiss described his efforts, with the aid of seven watchmen on fire towers in New Jersey, to gain information on insect flight.

Mr. Angell introduced a discussion on *Vespa erabro* in the course of which Mr. Davis described some of his experiences with it and allied species, leading him to the belief that such wasps work on moonlight nights.